

**CABLE MODEM WITH AUTONOMOUS DIAGNOSTIC FUNCTION****ABSTRACT**

5           A self testable communications device (102) such as a cable modem, a system  
(100) of remotely distributed such devices (102) and the method (140) of testing. One or  
more cable modems (102) are connected to a distribution hub (110). Each cable modem  
(102) includes a connection test initiator, such as a button (130) on the cable modem  
(102), on a web page or, on a computer (104) desk top which is accessible from the  
10 particular cable modem (102). When a test (140) is initiated by pressing or selecting the  
button (130), the system (100) initiates diagnostics (140) to check the connection of the  
cable modem (102) to the distribution hub (110). After the test (140) is complete, the  
cable modem user is provided with an automatic response indicating connection test  
(140) results.